

DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
LEPC REPORT
Drafted 17 April 2006

FY 04 Homeland Security Funding: We have received all the equipment purchased with FY 04 HSGP funds. The county has the capability to program these new radios locally. Karen Brown has the necessary software and programming equipment, which could result in significant savings of time and money, along with giving us much more flexibility of use.

Evacuation Plan: The county Evacuation and Quarantine Plan (an annex to the Disaster and Emergency Plan) will be presented to the LEPC at the April meeting for final review. If found satisfactory, it will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Public Safety Communications: There have been several developments within the state interoperable communications effort during the last four to six weeks that directly impact county communications improvement efforts. First, the state program has received a new name: Interoperability Montana (IM). Northrup Grumman was awarded a contract this winter to manage this initiative under the guidance of the project directors of all of the nine consortiums within the state. The various project directors act jointly as the IM Project Directors Board (IMPD) to supervise and administer the program. The second, very significant decision reached has been that there will be no FY 05 Homeland Security Grant funds allocated to the counties or to the consortiums this year. It is all to be allocated to the statewide IM initiative to develop the microwave connected looped communications system envisioned to be the backbone of the state's public safety communications infrastructure. What will be done with any FY 06 money has yet to be determined. Thirdly, Gallatin County's Jason Shrauger has assumed the position I formerly held as Project Director for SCMIC, the consortium of which Madison County is a part. I will continue to serve as Chairman of the SCMIC Board of Governors.

On the local front, there has been some apparent progress in the attempt to improve our in-county coverage that gives promise of reaching fruition this summer. We have been promised three or four used but operable MHP radio repeaters. Several sites look to be attainable within that time frame, one to cover the northwest corner of Madison County, one that would give coverage in Big Sky and we have heard of some possibilities in the Reynolds Pass area. We should look on all of these sites as interim sites pending expansion of the state infrastructure mentioned in the previous paragraph but it is a start on solving our coverage problems.

Fire Grant: Madison County submitted a joint Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grant request in the amount of \$443,450. Madison Valley Rural acted as the host agency but, if awarded, this would fund replacement and upgrade of all portable, mobile and station radios and pagers for the county's six fire departments (along with their QRUs) and both ambulance services. This, of course, was a high priority need identified in the communications assessment and plan for our county produced by CTA, Inc. last year. Upgrading and replacing radios for the other public safety disciplines will have to await identification of other funding sources.

CCC: Melinda will give a full report of CCC activities at the meeting. We have received our FY 05 allocation and have had our FY 04 grant augmented during the last week or so, which will enable the CCC program to continue to develop along the lines it has been so successful with over the last nine months.

Risk Mitigation Coordinator: Joe Husar has signed a contract to act as the Madison County Risk Mitigation Coordinator. He will be working on sub-division review and getting the Wildland/Urban Interface program (sometimes called the Defensible Space program) restarted in the county. LEPC participation and any other form of assistance you might care to offer would be welcomed.